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Make a contribution to this
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please e-mail Elaine Tan.

Newsletter from the Victorian Therapeutics Advisory Group

Election of 2012 VicTAG Management Committee

At the 2011 Annual General Meeting in November, an election for officers of VicTAG and ordinary members of the Committee was conducted. All current Management Committee members were re-elected for another year of service and two new members (Dr Mary O'Reilly and Dr Inger Olesen) were elected into the Management Committee.

Dr Geoff Matthews has decided to retire from the Chairman position at the end of 2011, however he will remain in the Committee as an ordinary member. Dr Mary O'Reilly (Eastern Health) was nominated for the Chairman's position and

has accepted and Dr Inger Olesen (Barwon Health) has been elected to be an ordinary member of the Committee.

The Management Committee are most grateful to Dr Geoff Matthews for his leadership, contribution and service as Chairman and welcome Dr Mary O'Reilly and Dr Inger Olesen to the Committee.

Office bearers for 2012 are Chairman—Dr Mary O'Reilly, Vice Chairman—Kent Garrett, Treasurer—Helen Matthews, Secretary—Greg Weeks.

PROMPT Update—Change to Login Username

Recently, PROMPT has had a change to the way the username is to be entered.

For members who access PROMPT via the website <http://system.prompt.org.au/login.aspx>, you will need to add @VTAG to the end of your username. For example, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre's new username will be Peter MacCallum@VTAG. Please e-mail elainet@unimelb.edu.au if you are unsure of your new username or are experiencing problems with logging in.



Tip with PROMPT

When undertaking a search within PROMPT, remember to change the 'organisation' option to something other than the default VicTAG organisation. To do this, click on the right drop down list under 'organisation' and choose the desired organisation or scroll to the very top to choose 'select an organisation—currently all will be searched'.

If the organisation option is not changed and remains as VicTAG, no documents would be found. This is because there are zero documents uploaded under VicTAG.



**VicTAG Management
Committee wishes all
members and their families
a Blessed and Safe
Christmas
and a Happy and
Prosperous New Year.**

Revamp of VicTAG Website

A web designer has given the VicTAG website a revamp. This new website will be more user-friendly and several VicTAG members will be administrators so able to keep the content up-to-date more easily. Work is now underway to ensure the content of the website is accurate. VicTAG members will be notified when the new and improved website is up and running. In the meantime, the current website (www.victag.org.au) is still available for the access of information.

Update on VicTAG QUM Projects

1. Development of a state-wide medication safety notice distribution system

The VicTAG QUM group's ongoing project on development of a state-wide medication safety notice distribution scheme is aimed at a more efficient and consistent method of distribution of Medication Safety Alerts which arise from time to time due to the following:

- new safety information requiring additional monitoring or cautions in the use of a medication
- medication has changed appearance
- labelling may be identified as being unclear, ambiguous and poses a risk to patient safety.

Sources of alerts vary from those originated by manufacturers, Government Departments, Medication Safety Organisations e.g. ISMP, NHS in the UK, or by health professionals locally or internationally.

This information must be notified to pharmacy and or hospital staff efficiently and concisely to prevent patient harm. This project involves developing the message centrally and disseminating it in a template form to all Victorian VicTAG hospitals. Individual hospitals may then adjust the template for their own needs if required or disseminate it as sent. This avoids the need for each hospital to undertake this process individually which is time consuming and may result in inconsistency between different hospitals. It also ensures that rural and smaller hospitals become aware of issues in a timely manner without the need for in-house expertise.

Recently, the steering group for this project has seen the need for 2 levels of alerts:

- LEVEL ONE ALERTS—Alerts with the original intention which is a pictorial alert for hospital pharmacies designed to be sent to all areas and
- LEVEL TWO ALERTS—A second new level of alert, which is intended for Directors of Pharmacy/Pharmacists to ensure their awareness of medication safety issues. These alerts will include information that individual hospitals have developed but have not been deemed appropriate for a State-wide alert. These alerts may not necessarily include new information or apply to all areas.

For further information on this project, please contact the current Project Officer Jan deClifford at JdeClifford@phcn.vic.gov.au or Melita Van de Vreede at lita.vandevreede@easternhealth.org.au.

2. Current practice and barriers to implementation of user applied labelling in Victorian hospitals

The report for this project has been completed. Each hospital that participated in the project will be receiving their hospital's results as well as the Victorian state results for comparison. For further information on this project, please contact Wendy Ewing at wendy.ewing@southernhealth.org.au.

Interhospital Transfers and Medication Reconciliation Forms

At the November 2011 VicTAG Full Meeting, it was discussed and decided that hospitals should fax the Medication Reconciliation Form (MRF) to the transfer hospital pharmacy during interhospital transfers.

2012 VicTAG Full Meeting Dates

VicTAG Full Meetings are held at 4pm at The Royal Melbourne Hospital. Dates for 2012 are: 28th March, 30th May, 25th July, 26th September, 28th November.